



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Release of the Annual State Department Human Rights Report

As delivered by Political Counselor Bruce Connuck
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
March 3, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Permanent Council that the U.S. Department of State's 2004 Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices have been released.

These reports are a widely respected and politically objective human rights reporting mechanism. They are carefully cross-checked and are based on information from a variety of sources.

This year, the United States will continue the practice begun in 2003 of translating country-specific sections of the report and posting them on U.S. Embassy websites in both English and the local languages.

We are confident that this resource will prove to be useful to the OSCE's work and to the work of participating States, as we seek to close the gaps between theory and implementation of OSCE human rights commitments. As the founding principles of the OSCE make clear, respect for human rights also contributes to international security.

The reports are available on the Internet at <http://www.state.gov/>.

Thank you.